

**RESPONSE**

Serial Number: 10696,451

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Title: Quick Attachment System

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 were rejected in the Office Action. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended herein.

**Section 102 Rejections**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, and 15-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Solaja (USPN 4,809,449). The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims.

As best shown in FIGURE 1 and as recited in amended claims 1 and 15, the quick attachment system is configured to attach to a "frame [102] extending from the rear of the vehicle forward to a point at least ahead of the rear wheels". By contrast, the "frame" of Solaja is a small vertically and laterally extending box-like structure stuck on the ends of a pair of loader arms in place of a bucket. This "frame", as shown in Solaja, extends forward of the vehicle and hangs off the end of the loader arms. This is unlike the "frame" to which the applicant refers. The "frame" that applicant refers to is an elongated structure that terminates at the rear of the vehicle and extends forward to a point forward of the rear wheels (see FIG. 1).

**Section 103 Rejections**

The Examiner rejected Claims 5-14, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Solaja in view of Hund (USPN 5,984,019). The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims.

Hund, unlike Solaja is directed to a structure that can be fixed to several short pivoting links disposed at the rear of a tractor. Unlike Solaja, Hund has a link to which a drawbar may be attached when the implement portion of the Hund device – the two tines of a rear-mounted lifting fork – are removed.

There is no reason to combine the two references by putting a Hund drawbar connection on the Solaja implement frame. The Hund device is a simple five sided hollow loop to which an implement drawbar can be attached that is intended to be mounted to the rear of a vehicle for

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towing. The Solaja device, on the other hand, has a permanently affixed laterally extending cylinder and blade assembly sticking out several feet in front of the vehicle that is fixed not to a rear hitch for towing (like Hund), but to the ends of front loader lift arms 62 in place of the traditional loader bucket.

There is no reason to believe that a drawbar structure like Hund could be fixed to structure 40 of the Solaja loader vehicle, somehow threading the drawbar through the framework of Solaja and up above (or under) the Solaja cylinder and blade to the implement that is drawn by the drawbar and still be able to operate (while traveling in reverse?) the implement. There is no reasonable expectation of success.

Further, the references, when combined would not provide the device the Examiner suggests. Properly combined, the references teach a Solaja device coupled to forwardly extending loader arms on a tractor (for example) in place of a bucket, and a Hund device coupled to the rear three-point hitch of that same tractor.

Even further, neither the Solaja nor the Hund reference teaches coupling anything to a "frame extending from the rear of the vehicle forward to a point at least ahead of the rear wheel" as recited in all the independent claims. Solaja is connected to a small vertically and laterally extending frame 64 that is fixed to the ends of the loader arms, not a frame that extends longitudinally as claimed. Hund is connected to the ends of the short pivoting linkages that are part of a three point hitch and also do not extend longitudinally as claimed.

Regarding claim 10, Solaja, does not disclose a "single cylindrical pin". Instead, Solaja disclosed an "L"-shaped member 68, 88, 114, or 34 instead.

For at least the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of the claims.

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**CONCLUSION**

All the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, early notification of which is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview would advance the allowance of the application he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone or e-mail address identified below.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Germantown, Tennessee office by telephone at (901) 309-3068.

Respectfully submitted,

/Stephen Michael Patton #36235/

Date: 23 May 2005

Stephen M. Patton

Reg. No. 36,235

Patton IP  
7881 Grove Court East  
Germantown, TN 38138

Phone: 901-309-3068  
Fax: 901-756-9489  
Email: SMPatton@PattonIP.com

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23rd day of May, 2005.

Stephen M. Patton

/Stephen Michael Patton #36235/

Name

Signature